

Design & Access Statement



dia 1: view of proposed site from Hoyle Park.

prepared in support of a planning application for a
Classroom and external fencing :

Hoyle Nursery School, Chesham Fold Road, Bury.



Introduction

- The applicant for this application is Hoyle Nursery School on Chesham Road, Bury.
- The Nursery is seeking to create a 'forest school' in an under-utilised area of Hoyle Park immediately to the west of the Nursery School.
- Essentially a forest school involves splashing in puddles, rolling in leaves, catching rain on a tarpaulin, building a snow slide, drying mud out in the sun until it cracks, sliding down a mud slide, making mud pies and looking for worms.



dia.2 View of site from Chesham Fold Road

- An area of approximately 0.08 hectares has been identified by the School as a potential site to create a space to introduce the children to nature in a creative way.
- This would be by the creation of a landscaped play space within an area of mature trees of the eastern side of Hoyle Park.
- The main element of the proposal is for a stand-alone Classroom space which it is proposed to be constructed using a refurbished shipping container.
- The overall proposal will benefit both the children and their parents bringing them closer to nature with hands-on learning in a wooded environment.
- Initially the use will be limited to the Hoyle Nursery but with the intention of expanding this to the wider community with neighbouring schools being invited to also use the space.
- Prior to considering this site our clients reviewed potential options within their existing curtilage. However these options were dismissed due to the close proximity of residential housing and the requirement to provide an alternative means of escape in the event of a fire.
- We would like to demonstrate with this statement how the Nursery and the wider community would benefit from the development of this space.

Current Use

- Hoyle Park is a public park accommodating a large area of open green space with associated uses such as football pitches and an external play area, under the ownership of Bury MBC.
- The proposed site is situated to the eastern edge of the park bounded by Chesham Fold Road and benefits from a number of large mature trees.
- The Nursery undertook an assessment of the day-to day usage of this particular area and established that it was little used - other than by occasional dog-walkers.

Proposed use

- The Nursery has identified a need for introducing their pupils to the natural environment and give them confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment; something which is missing from their current upbringing.
- An element of the proposal is to encourage and engage the children's families in their education and development in a varied landscape.
- The basis of this wish is the development of the site to provide a safe external play space. This will include the landscaping of the wooded area with an adventure play area including features such as a tree-house.
- One of the main features will be a stand-alone classroom which will be built from a refurbished shipping container, sat on a raised platform.
- The classroom will provide a dry warm space with play equipment such as a climbing wall for colder days together with W.C. and baby changing facilities.
- Both elements will be structures that could be easily removed with no lasting affect on the immediate surroundings.

Layout and Access

- The classroom is to be located to the western boundary sat on a raised deck to the east outside of the tree canopies to maximise the potential for natural light. The play area will be in amongst the trees.
- The forest school must be highly accessible to the local community and a solution will be found to accommodate this wish. However it will be situated in a highly deprived area and the security of the site is an issue. Currently the site boundary with Chesham Fold Road and the Nursery car park is formed with an 1100mm high metal fence. The northern boundary is bounded by residential gardens, with the western boundary open to the remaining of the park.
- It is proposed to address the security issues by replacing the existing fence with a 2.0m high palisade fence, painted 'moss green'. A pedestrian gate directly off Chesham Fold Road will provide access for the Nursery with additional double gates, for maintenance, from the existing Nursery car park.
- The existing Nursery School car park will be otherwise unaffected by the proposals.

Landscaping

- The existing landscape, particularly the mature trees to this area of the park is ideal within the context of providing a forest school.
- It is proposed to employ professional playground/landscape designers to provide a series of planting areas, wild flower areas and play structures within the space.

Appearance

- The classroom will be a major feature of the proposal and whilst sited in a public park we wanted to emphasize it as a feature in the overall area. With respect to it's setting we have chosen to clad the elevations with fibre cement panels in different shades of green. These would be resistant to vandalism but replaceable should they become damaged.



dia.3 veiw of site from nursery car park

Planning Policy

- Please refer to Planning Statement.

Planning History

- Please refer to Planning Statement.

Pre-Application Advice

- Please refer to Planning Statement.

Conclusion

- The proposal, the creation of a forest school, will provide an additional much needed facility for the Nursery but will also become a focal point for the wider local community.
- It will provide both the children and their parents a space to take part in group activities , learn new skills and strengthen the relationship between the school and the local community.
- It will find a use and revitalise, what is currently, an under utilised forgotten area of a public park.